

Vacation Diary – Chapter Five

Thursday, October 23, 2008 – Started off the day at Golden Corral for breakfast again, and then we stopped at a Wi-Fi place so my husband could download the Chicago Bears game from the previous Sunday because the internet was too slow in our condo to do anything. That's a good thing though, I wasn't able to check email all week and it was nice to take a break from bad news on cnn.com and the real world. We were lucky enough that it didn't rain during our trip to Florida until this day when we were already done with the parks. It really didn't rain much, just a little drizzle, and even though the day was overcast, we spent much of it at the two pools in our condo complex, followed by a nap while my husband juggled the kids, the Bears game, and his own nap. We then went to our favorite flea market place and let the girls spend their money that Grandma had given them. NOTE FOR NEXT YEAR – the souvenir shopping was kind of a mistake. Sammie (4 year old) wanted to be impulsive with her money, and we got tired of telling her to wait to spend it. Finally she was allowed to buy something, and then she saw other things she wanted after she was out of money. She also spent the rest of the trip whining and pitching fits about wanting the same souvenirs that her older sister Taylor had picked out. Disney's (2 year old) idea of "shopping" was running around and picking up things she wanted and playing with them, so overall, I would not recommend the souvenir shopping for kids this age; if we go back within a year or two, we're going to skip this aspect of the trip. If they earn spending money for next time, maybe we'll pick out something for them with it!

Dinner that night was interesting. My husband has wanted to take me to a Japanese restaurant for awhile, so we decided to try a place called Kabuki. I was always under the impression that Japanese food would be like Chinese food, but I was wrong. We sat at a "cooking table", which is where the chef

comes and does little tricks and stunts with the food and cooking utensils while he cooks right in front of you. At first, I was a little nervous about this because we were seated with a couple from a country called Luxembourg, and having strangers at our table was a little nerve-wracking because my kids can be wild at the dinner table at times. Everything was fine; the kids were really entertained by the chef's show. Better yet, they were mindlessly eating their food without thinking to complain about it or ask for something else. And the couple from Luxembourg took pictures and later emailed them to me – check it out:



Overall, I liked the Japanese food experience – taste and show – and I would recommend it to others if it's something you've never tried before. As you can see, our chef was not Japanese – the guy from Luxembourg predicted that and recommended we retry the experience with a Japanese chef.